

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 080858

R 280934Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3251

INFO AMEMBASSY IALAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOV, IR, AFG

SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP - SOVIET COMMENT

AT SOCIAL FUNCTION JULY 27 SOVIET EMBASSY DCM SPITSKIY VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING ON AFGHAN COUP. SPITSKIY SERVED AT SOVIET EMBASSY KABUL DURING LATER YEARS OF DAUD'S PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND SAYS HE KNEW HIM WELL. HE DESCRIBED DAUD AS STRONG NATIONALIST AND GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, WHICH TALENTS HE WOULD NEED IN DAYS AHEAD, BUT ALSO LACKING IN POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY WHICH MADE HIM ENEMIES. HE ATTRIBUTED COUP PRIMARILY TO INTERNAL DISSATISFACTION OVER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ACCUMULATED GRIEVANCES BROUGHT ABOUT BY SEVERAL YEARS OF DROUGHT, FOOD SHORTAGES, RISING PRICES, ETC., WHICH HAD WEAKENED WHATEVER SUPPORT KING ZAHIR MAY HAVE ENJOYED AND HELPED EXPLAIN QUICK COLLAPSE OF ANY OPPOSITION WHEN DAUD STAGED HIS COUP. HOWEVER, UNLESS DAUD MOVED ENERGETICALLY WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS "TO BETTER MASSES", ESPECIALLY LAND REFORM, DAUD'S DAYS WOULD ALSO BE NUMBERED. AS FOR PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE, SPITSKIY SAID DAUD HAD RAISED MATTER FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION. SPITSKIY DID NOT THINK DAUD

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WOULD PUSH THIS ISSUE TOO HARD WITH PAKISTAN. HE

SPECULATED DAUD WOULD CONTINUE CURRENT TREND IN IMPROVED
RELATIONS WITH IRAN.
HECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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